COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU, Acting Director

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

July 29, 2008

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: PD-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH SANTA FE RESERVOIR SPREADING GROUNDS SIPHON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE CITY OF IRWINDALE (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action is to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon reconstruction project in the City of Irwindale.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon reconstruction project together with any comments received during the public review process; find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of your Board; adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, finding that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; find on the basis of the whole record before your Board that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment; and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

2. Approve the project and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and authorize reconstruction of the siphon in the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we provide Service Excellence (Goal 1), Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3), and Community Services (Goal 6). This project will eliminate standing water upstream of the siphon and remove a mosquito breeding pond, thereby improving the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles (County).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The proposed project, including filing fees, is estimated to cost in the range of $140,000 to $170,000. A construction contract will be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent upon your approval of this action. Funding for preliminary engineering was included in the Flood Fund Budget for Fiscal Years 2006-07 and 2007-08. Funding for construction of the project is included in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2008-09 Flood Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the project is to improve drainage and rectify maintenance problems in the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds.

An environmental impact analysis/document is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental effects of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, the Department of Public Works (Public Works) is also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of CEQA.

The project involves lowering of the siphon culvert that conveys water between spreading basins to facilitate the flow of water over the top of the siphon. This will eliminate standing surface water in the vicinity of the siphon. An access ramp will also be constructed to facilitate maintenance of the structure.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

An Initial Study was prepared for this project in compliance with the CEQA. The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects of the project, but prior to the release of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study for public review, revisions in the project were made or agreed to which would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur. The Initial Study and project revisions showed that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the County, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the Initial Study and project revisions, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project.

A Public Notice was published in the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* on April 28, 2008, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092 and posted pursuant to Section 21092.3. Comments were received from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Native American Heritage Commission. Responses to those comments are included in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and were sent to those agencies pursuant to Section 21092.5.

The documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings, upon which your Board's decision is based in this matter, is located at Public Works Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is the Environmental Planning and Assessments Section of Public Works. The documentation includes the attached Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

The project is not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of Fish and Game. Upon your Board's adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees to the Registrar-Recorder\County Clerk in the amount of $1,926.50.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed project will facilitate maintenance and eliminate standing water to remove a source of mosquito breeding.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick V. DeChellis
DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
Acting Director of Public Works

DDE:SA:re

Attachments (3)

c: County Counsel
Department of Public Works (Design, Public Relations)

DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project No. FCC0000976
Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon

Prepared for:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
302 Brookside Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373

APRIL 2008

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List of Figures

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. Project Title:

Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Dale Sakamoto
(626) 458-3915

4. Project Location:

Santa Fe Flood Control Basin
South of the I-210 and I-605 Freeway Interchange

5. Proponent's Name and Address:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

6. General Plan Designation:

Open Space

7. Zoning:

A-1: Agricultural

8. Description of Project:

The Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon (Proposed Project) is located in the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin in an unincorporated area in Irwindale in the County of Los Angeles (Figure 1). The project site is in Township 1 North/Range 10 West approximately 34°07' 55" North latitude and 117°57' 23" West longitude of the Azusa Quadrangle USGS 7.5 Minute Map (Figure 2).

The Santa Fe Spreading Grounds consists of multiple spreading basins. A siphon conveys water from Basin 2 to Basin 4 across Basin 3. Basin 3 is located downstream of the outlet of Bradbury Channel. The siphon impedes flow from the channel. The siphon will be reconstructed at a lower elevation (approximately 3-1/2 feet) to enable flow and eliminate standing water conditions upstream of the siphon.

A permanent concrete ramp 14 feet wide will be constructed from the levee between Basin 3 and Basin 4 to access the siphon. The location of the access ramp is over existing grouted riprap.

Water will be redirected away from the work area during construction to eliminate adverse impacts to water quality from contact with construction material. Construction activity will cause minimal amount

of vegetation loss in the channel. Equipment would be well maintained to prevent pollutants from entering the stream.

During construction, the contractor will be required to follow Best Management Practices of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works designed to prevent spillage and/or runoff of construction-related materials, sediment, or contaminants associated with construction activity.

The contractor will properly dispose of excess material. Depending on construction methods, up to 1,000 cubic yards of material may be excavated. The existing .018-acre footprint of the siphon across the channel will remain unchanged in size. A temporary construction easement will restrict the width of the impact area to 40 feet for the access ramp and 54 feet for the siphon. Construction is estimated to take approximately 60 days to complete.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

Santa Fe Dam and Reservoir (Dam) is a flood control project constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District. Construction of the project started in August 1941, but was temporarily interrupted in 1943 in deference to military work. Construction resumed in 1946, and the embankment and the spillway were completed in February 1947. Installation of the slide gates was delayed by post-war metal shortages until January 1949.

The Proposed Project is located within the Santa Fe Dam Spreading Basin and is located within a very heavily industrialized area of the San Gabriel Valley in the City of Irwindale. Specifically, the Proposed Project site is located south of the Interstate 210 (I-210) and Interstate-605 (I-605) Freeway Interchange. The Proposed Project site is bounded by Arrow Highway on the southern perimeter, Irwindale Boulevard on the east, the I-605 (San Gabriel River Freeway) to the northwest, and the I-210 (Foothill Freeway) directly to the north. North of the Santa Fe Dam is the 636-acre Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

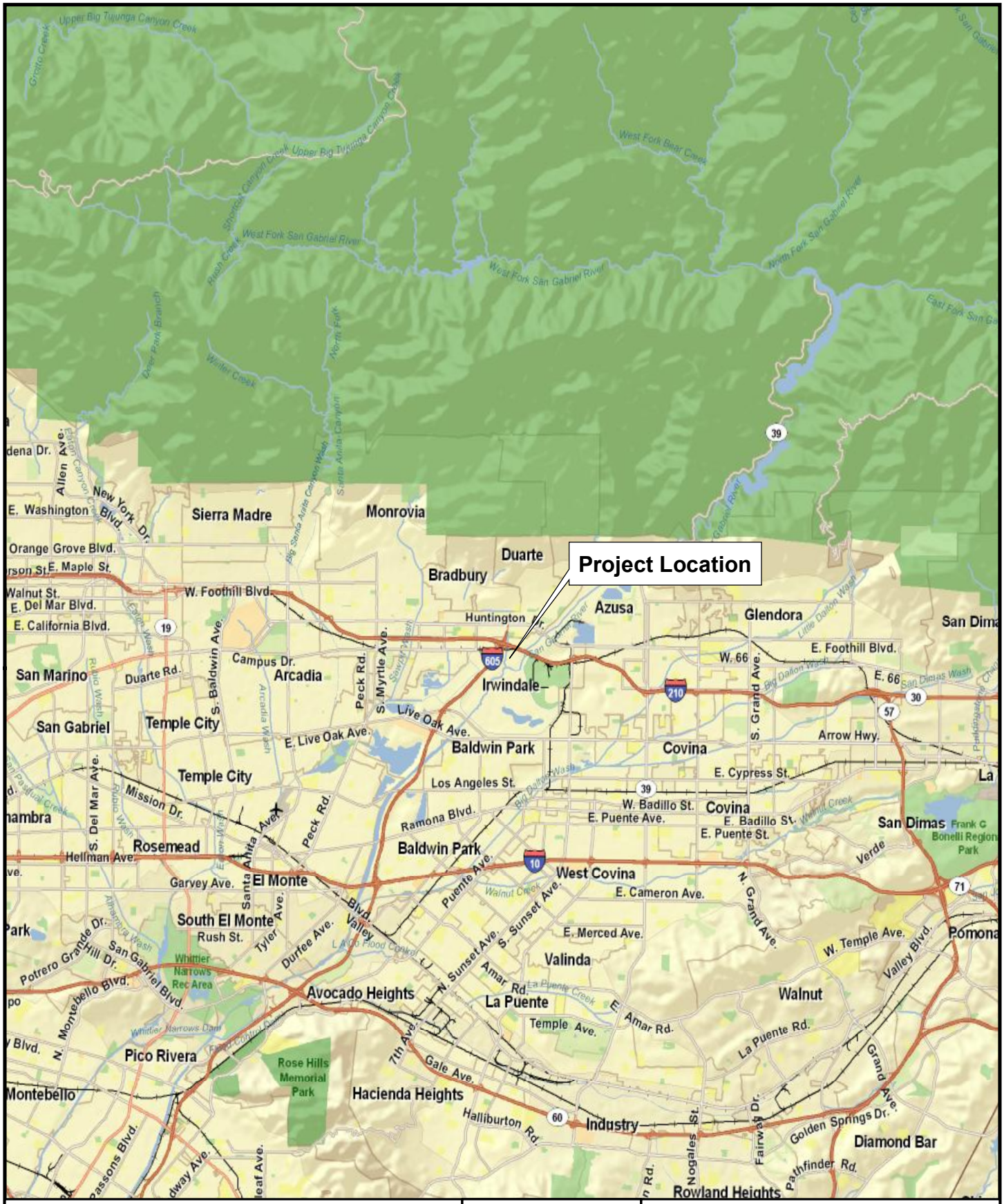
The Proposed Project site is located downstream of the "outfall" of the Bradbury Channel. The Bradbury Channel (a concrete-lined drainage channel upstream) emerges from a box culvert within Spreading Basin 3E and becomes a soft-bottomed perennial stream, apparently fed by urban runoff from the residential and commercial developments located upstream.

Irwindale's land use is primarily commercial and industrial with a very small portion being residential. The General Plan Land Use Designation for the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area is Parks and Recreation while the Spreading Basin itself is classified as Open Space. The zoning for both the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area and Spreading Basin is A-1 (Agricultural).

The City of Baldwin Park is south of the site and the areas adjacent to Arrow Highway are non-residential in nature. Also within Irwindale's corporate limits are commercial and industrial uses, which are east of the Santa Fe Drainage Basin. Further east, but in the City of Azusa, there are industrial (a rock quarry) and commercial areas. Other surrounding land uses include the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to the north and undeveloped retention basins and access roads to the south, east, and west. The San Gabriel River, of which the Drainage Basin and Dam are a part, flows through the area and generally parallels the San Gabriel Freeway until the San Gabriel River Freeway intersects with the Interstate-405 Freeway. From that point, the San Gabriel River then flows into the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach.

10. Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required:

Agency	Permit/Approval
Army Corp of Engineers	404 Permit
Regional Water Quality Control Board	401 Certification
California Department of Fish and Game	1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement



0 2 4 6 Kilometers

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

NORTH

Chambers Group, Inc.

Project No.: 8492
Date: 6/1/07
Image Source: USGS
Flown: 2004
Projection: UTM Zone 11, NAD83

LADPW in City of Irwindale
Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds

Project Vicinity Map

Figure 1

0 100 200 300 Meters

0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

NORTH

Chambers Group, Inc.

Project No.: 8492
Date: 6/1/07
Image Source: USGS
Flown: 2004
Projection: UTM Zone 11, NAD83

LADPW in City of Irwindale
Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds

Project Aerial Map

Figure 3

0 100 200 300 Meters

0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

NORTH

Chambers Group, Inc.

Project No.: 8492
Date: 6/1/07
Image Source: USGS
Flown: 2004
Projection: UTM Zone 11, NAD83

LADPW in City of Irwindale
Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds

Project Location Map

Figure 2

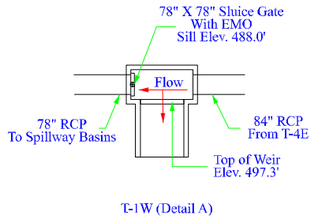
BASIN NO.	MAX. W.S. ELEV. (FT.)	STORAGE CAP. (AF)
1W	493.0	34.26
2W	487.0	45.94
3W	484.0	106.14
	TOTAL	186.34

Maximum Intake : 600 CFS

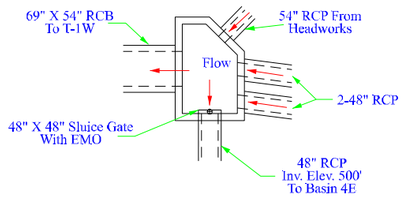
Percolation Rate : 400 CFS

Legend

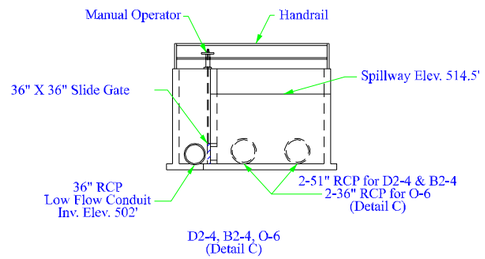
- Data Logger
- Pipeline
- Gage Board Staff
- D Basin Drain Structure
- O Outlet Structure
- T Turnout Structure
- B Basin Spillway
- Water Level Measurement (Telemetry)



T-1W (Detail A)

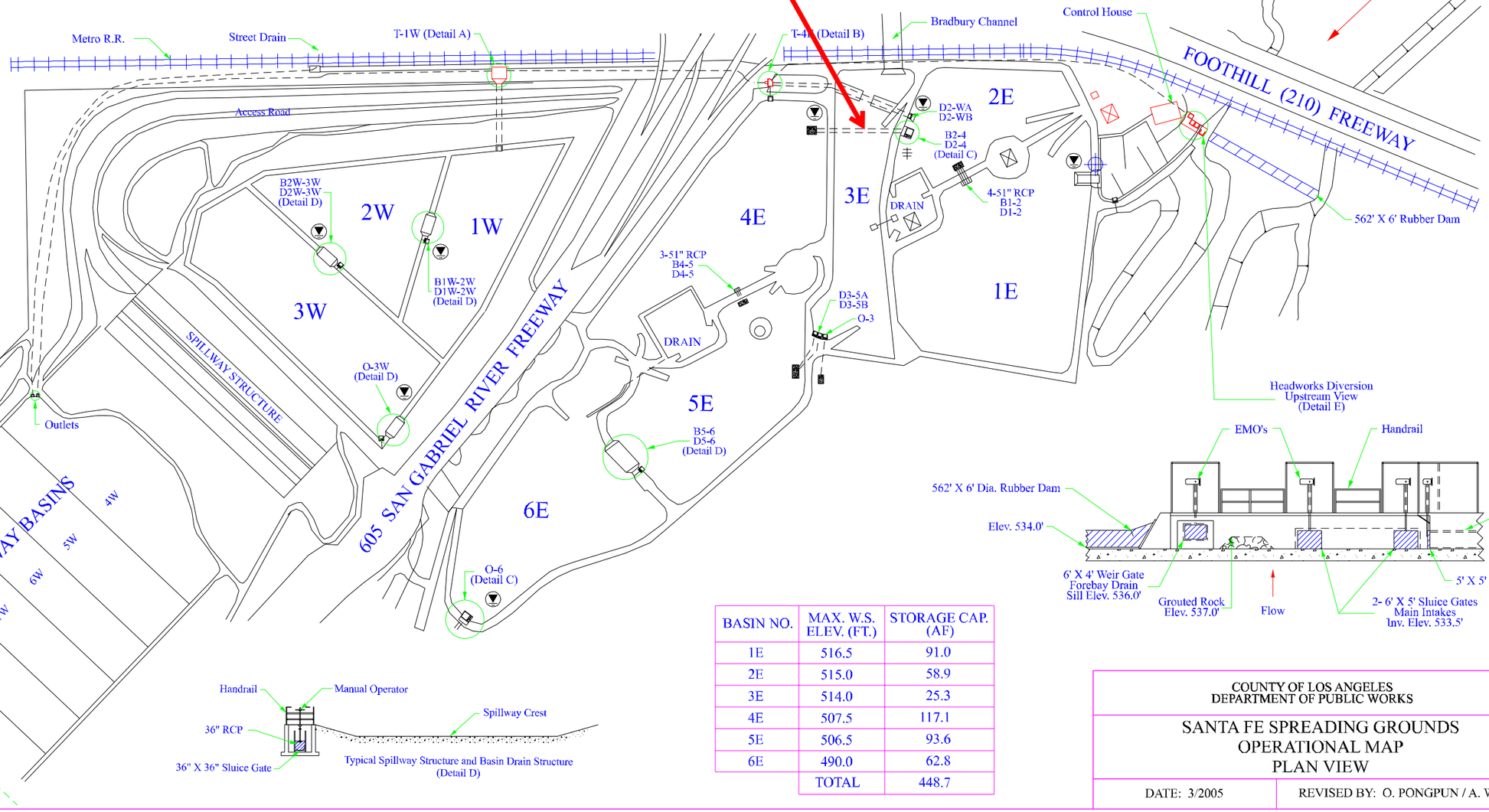


T-4E (Detail B)

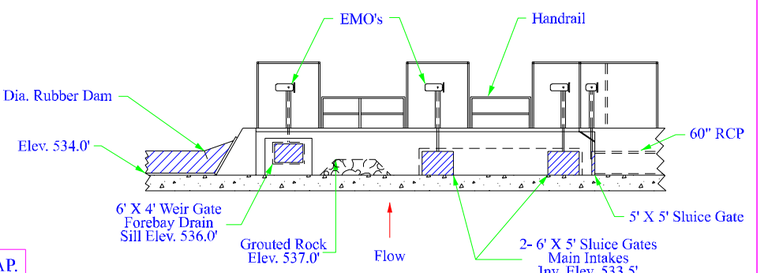


D2-4, B2-4, O-6
(Detail C)

Work area for siphon reconstruction project



PLAN VIEW
NOT TO SCALE



Typical Spillway Structure and Basin Drain Structure
(Detail D)

BASIN NO.	MAX. W.S. ELEV. (FT.)	STORAGE CAP. (AF)
1E	516.5	91.0
2E	515.0	58.9
3E	514.0	25.3
4E	507.5	117.1
5E	506.5	93.6
6E	490.0	62.8
	TOTAL	448.7

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SANTA FE SPREADING GROUNDS OPERATIONAL MAP PLAN VIEW

DATE: 3/2005

REVISED BY: O. PONGPUN / A. WARD

DETERMINATION

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Public Services
☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Recreation
☐ Air Quality	☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Population and Housing	

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☑

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. ☐

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Signature — Date: 4/22/08

Dale Sakamoto — Printed Name

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works — For

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

I. AESTHETICS

Setting

The areas adjacent to the site are commercial, industrial, or related to mineral extraction (quarries), and flood control. The site is located at the juncture of two major interstate freeways. The proposed improvement will be at grade or slightly above grade with the bottom of the drainage basin and will generally not be visible to residences or surrounding areas because of intervening commercial or industrial activities, and the freeways. The project is basically reconstruction of an underground pipe between two retention basins that will not be visible at all from surrounding areas.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is a modification or improvement to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the reconstruction of an underground siphon pipe between two retention basins. During project construction activity, equipment and vehicles could be discernible from off-site vantage points and from adjacent properties. However, short-term construction activities would not create aesthetic impacts since there would be no obstruction of scenic views by construction equipment. In the visual context of surrounding development, visual character impacts would be temporary in nature. The project is consistent with the existing land use and would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is surrounded by the I-210 and I-605. The I-210 and I-605 are not designated as scenic highways by the State of California (CalTrans, 2007). No impact would occur.

c)	Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is only a modification to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the reconstruction of an underground siphon pipe between two retention basins. The surrounding area is the Drainage Basin itself and surrounding commercial, industrial, and mineral extraction industries. The Proposed Project would not degrade the visual character of the site or its surroundings.

d)	Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would involve the reconstruction of an underground drainage pipe between two retention basins, and would not incorporate any lighting. Therefore, there will be no impacts created by

substantial light or glare that could adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The Proposed Project site is located within the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin. Even though it is zoned as A-1 (Agricultural) by the City of Irwindale, there are no agricultural activities within the Spreading Basin due to the hazard of potential flooding. Furthermore, the Basin is surrounding by non-agricultural uses such as industrial, mineral extraction, recreational (Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area), and commercial activities.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Santa Fe Drainage Basin, even though zoned as A-1 (Agricultural), is not used for agricultural land and as such would not convert any type of farmland to non-agricultural uses. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project is in an existing Drainage Basin and as such would not conflict with existing zoning or a Williamson Act contract. No impact would occur.

c)	Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project is located within an existing flood control basin and would not be converting agricultural land to other uses. No impact would occur.

III. AIR QUALITY

Setting

The Proposed Project area is located within the San Gabriel Valley section of Los Angeles County, which is part of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). The entire SCAB is in non-attainment for ozone and PM 2.5 under both the National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards. The federal 24-hour standard for PM 10 was not exceeded at any of the locations monitored in 2005. The much more stringent state standards for PM 10 were exceeded in most areas.

The Santa Fe Spreading Basin is in the portion of the San Gabriel Valley that is in Source Receptor Area No. 9. According to the California Air Resources Board Source, Receptor Area No. 9 (specifically, the East San Gabriel Valley Monitoring Station No. 1 in Azusa) showed violations of Federal ozone

standards 10 days in 2006. The state standards for ozone were violated 23 days in 2006.

In the year 2005, the 1- and 8-hour average federal standard levels for ozone were exceeded at one or more Basin locations on 30 and 84 days, respectively. Basin-wide, the federal PM 2.5 24-hour standard was exceeded on six days sampled. Federal standards for PM 2.5 within Source Receptor Area No. 9 were exceeded only on one day in 2005. Other criteria pollutants did not exceed the ambient air quality standards.

The Proposed Project is expected to generate PM 10 and PM 2.5 emissions due to excavation and construction vehicle emissions. It is estimated that as much as 1000 cubic yards of dirt will be excavated as part of the project. However, this will only be temporary and will last approxiametly two months. All regulations governing fugitive dust emissions and Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District will be followed. The vehicles will comply with emission standards and BMPs with regards to maintenance of construction vehicles.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Attainment Plan. The proposed addition project would comply with the control measures identified in the SCAQMD's 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) as they are developed and enacted, as well as conform to the standards and guidelines of the Program. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

The Proposed Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The project would comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 for PM 10 and PM 2.5 emissions. The Proposed Project would produce greenhouse gases during the temporary construction activities; however, the construction activities would adhere to all applicable air quality plans of the SCAQMD. The greenhouse gases produced during this short term construction project are considered to be less than significant with respect to the average daily aggregate greenhouse gases produced in the South Coast Air Basin. The impacts on global warming resulting from the short term construction activity associated with this project are accordingly considered to be less than significant. These impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction. .

c)	Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

The Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment. The project would comply with the 2007 SCAQMP Control Measures. A less than significant impact would occur.

d)	Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

Given the large area of the Spreading Basin and the distance between the Proposed Project and habitable structures, there are no sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the project site. No impact would occur.

e)	Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

Given the large area of the Spreading Basin and the distance between the Proposed Project and habitable structures, there are not a substantial number of people within the vicinity of the project site. No impact would occur.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting

The Proposed Project site is at an elevation of approximately 520 feet above mean sea level (msl). The area is generally flat with gentle slopes ranging from 0–10 percent. The Proposed Project site consists of mostly poorly-drained sandy soils and riverwash/alluvial deposits.

The Proposed Project site consists of four vegetation communities, including Ruderal, Southern Willow Scrub, Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, and Riparian Herbaceous; Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub is considered a sensitive plant community. The Proposed Project site was evaluated for the presence of 31 sensitive plant species; it was determined that one (Greta's aster, *Aster greatae*) had a high potential for occurrence, two species had a moderate potential for occurrence, five species had a low potential for occurrence, and 22 species were determined to be absent from the Proposed Project site.

During the reconnaissance-level survey, 20 species of wildlife were observed or otherwise detected on or in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site, including one butterfly, one fish, one amphibian, two reptiles, 13 birds, and two mammals. The most common bird species included house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), and Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*).

The Proposed Project site was evaluated for the presence of 19 special status wildlife species. It was determined that two species (Coast horned lizard, *Phrynosoma coronatum* (*blainvillii*) and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, *Lepus californicus bennettii*) had a high potential for occurrence, three species had a moderate potential for occurrence, nine species had a low potential to occur, and five species were absent from the Proposed Project site. All of the species with a high or moderate potential to occur are California Species of Special Concern (CSC) and are not federal- or state-listed threatened and/or endangered (Chambers Group 2006). No wildlife corridors or native wildlife nursery were identified on the Proposed Project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Area of Impact onsite encompasses approximately 0.309 acres. The Proposed Project would require the removal of approximately 0.033 acres of Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, 0.078 acres of Southern Willow Scrub, 0.078 acres of Ruderal, and 0.020 acres of Riparian Herbaceous vegetation communities.

A literature review and reconnaissance-level biological survey were conducted in November 2006 (Chambers Group, Inc., 2006). Five wildlife species identified in the literature review have a moderate to high potential to occur on the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Project site: coast horned lizard *(Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii)*, southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida)*, two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii)*, and American badger (*Taxidea taxus)*. None these five species are federal- or state-listed threatened and/or endangered and, therefore, do not require focused surveys. Based on correspondence with Scott Harris (CDFG) on December 18 and 20, 2007, the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher has a low potential to be within the project vicinity, but was found to be absent from the project footprint during biological surveys (Chambers Group, Inc. 2006).

Seven sensitive and one federal- and/or state-listed plant species, Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), were determined to have a potential to occur on the Proposed Project site. Braunton's milk-vetch, although highly unlikely to be present onsite, could not be confirmed absent from the Proposed Project site during the reconnaissance survey because the survey fell outside the flowering period for the species.

The presence of the California Gnatcatcher was discovered in the vicinity of the project site after the completion of the biological reconnaissance survey in November 2006 (Siddiqui, Naeem, 2007). Construction equipment has the potential to disrupt the Gnatcatcher during its breeding and non-breeding season. These impacts would be temporary since they would be restricted to the construction phase of the Proposed Project; however, impacts to a federally listed species would require protocol surveys in order to determine the species presence and location. A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures B-1 and B-2.

B-1: A focused survey shall be conducted prior to construction activities to confirm the presence or absence of Braunton's milk-vetch. The survey must be completed within 30 days prior to the commencement of construction.

B-2: In order to avoid potential impacts to sensitive bird species, all construction activities should be scheduled to occur between August 1st and February 28th. If grading and/or grubbing activities must occur during the bird breeding season (i.e. between March 1st and June 30th), a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey for the presence/absence of nests within and adjacent to the Proposed Project site. The search area may include a buffer area of up to 500 feet from the limits of grading. All nests of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Federal Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, and other regulations resulting from this survey shall be identified and located. The survey protocols for both breeding and non-breeding periods are described below. These surveys shall be conducted prior to the commencement of construction.

- From March 15 through June 30, a minimum of **six (6)** surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart. The protocol for the breeding season was designed to provide a 95% confidence level of detecting coastal California gnatcatchers at a site when they are present.

- From July 1 through March 14, a minimum of **nine (9)** surveys shall be conducted at least two weeks apart.

Surveys shall be conducted between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Surveys shall avoid periods of excessive or abnormal heat, wind, rain, fog, or other inclement weather. Taped coastal California gnatcatcher vocalizations shall be used only until individuals have been initially located. Tapes shall not be used frequently or to elicit further behaviors from the birds.

Surveys shall be conducted by slowly walking survey routes. Sites with deep canyons, ridge lines, steep terrain, and thick shrub cover should be surveyed more slowly. Prevailing site conditions and professional judgment must be applied to determine appropriate survey rates and acreage covered per day. These factors may dictate that the maximum daily coverage specified below is not prudent under certain conditions.

If protected nesting bird(s) are discovered within the preconstruction survey area, a buffer area appropriate to the species shall be established to avoid potential impacts to any protected species found during this survey. This buffer area may range from 200 feet for some passerines to 500 feet for some raptors and some other, more sensitive species (i.e. coastal California gnatcatcher). The USFWS and/or CDFG shall be consulted to identify the appropriate actions necessary to prevent impacts on the species. These actions may involve establishing an avoidance perimeter, the erection of sound walls, delays in construction, bio-monitoring of the nest, and/or bio-monitoring of the nest/family group until it is determined that the nest has either failed or succeeded, at which time, all such preventative measures may be removed and construction shall be allowed to continue.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Area of Impact onsite encompasses approximately 0.309 acres. Most of the site within the Area of Impact is developed and is comprised of unvegetated dirt roads or concrete structures associated with the channel (0.094 acres). Unvegetated basin areas comprise 0.006 acres within the Area of Impact.

Hydrological features associated with definable channels or wetlands were located on the Proposed Project site. A formal jurisdictional delineation survey was required for the project. This delineation was completed on November 9, 2006 (Chambers Group 2006). Construction of the siphon pipeline would involve excavation of a portion of the stream in order to put the pipeline in place.

The Area of Impact includes approximately 0.098 acre of riparian habitat comprised of Southern Willow Scrub (0.078 acre) and Riparian Herbaceous (0.020 acre) vegetation communities. In addition, 0.033 acre of Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub occurs within the Area of Impact. Ruderal vegetation covers approximately 0.078 acre. A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure B-3.

B-3: As per Naeem Siddiqui of CDFG, mitigation measures will be implemented onsite to minimize temporary impacts to sensitive habitat within the Area of Impact, including 1) restoration of existing native vegetation; 2) exotic vegetation removal; and 3) replacement of exotic vegetation with native vegetation at a 2:1 ratio.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Proposed Project would result in 0.098 acres of temporary impacts to USACE and CDFG jurisdictional wetlands within the Bradbury Channel in Spreading Basin 3E (Chambers Group 2006). No other waterways will be impacted besides the Bradbury Channel.

The discharge of dredged or fill material (temporarily or permanently) into waters of the United States requires prior authorization from the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Activities that usually involve a regulated discharge of dredged or fill materials include (but are not limited to) grading, placing of riprap for erosion control, pouring concrete, laying sod, preparing soil for planting (except for ongoing farming operations), stockpiling excavated material, mechanized removal of vegetation, and driving of piles for certain types of structures. Any activity that results in the movement, grading, or stockpiling of material within a water of the United States (i.e., not "incidental fallback") is regulated by the USACE. Best management practices will be utilized throughout construction of the siphon pipeline to minimize impacts to the wetland and riparian habitat on the Proposed Project Site. A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures B-3.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would modify an existing siphon between two existing basins to allow for better water flow and would not interfere substantially with the movement of species. Construction activities have the potential to interfere with wildlife movement; however, these impacts would be temporary and would cease upon completion of construction. Construction is estimated to last approximately two months. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other conservation plans since the Proposed Project site is not within a plan area.

No impact would occur.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The area is within the Santa Fe Dam and Spreading Basin that was built by the Army Corp of Engineers in the 1940's and was subject to extensive grading by the USACE during the initial construction and follow-on construction. As such any cultural resources present in the Spreading Basin area were disturbed during the initial construction. Given the nature of the Proposed Project, only a small amount of dirt (1000 cubic yards) will be excavated. No structures are present in the Drainage Basin. As such, it is anticipated that no cultural resources will be discovered within the project area.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change to historical resources. No historical resources are located within the project area. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in archaeological resources. The USACE constructed the Basin during the 1940's. At that time, the Basin was graded extensively. No archaeological resources are anticipated to be present or disturbed during construction of the Proposed Project. However, if any artifacts are uncovered, the activity will cease so that a designated archaeologist can make a determination as to the significance of the project and commence analysis of the discovery and its possible significance. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project area has been previously graded during the 1940's. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to encounter or destroy unique paleontological or geological resources. No impacts would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project area has been graded previously during initial construction activities in the 1940's. No human remains are anticipated to occur. No impact would occur.

VI. GEOLOGY

Setting

The Proposed Project is located in the Azusa Quadrangle USGS 7.5 Minute Map. The Azusa Quadrangle covers an area of about 62 square miles in central Los Angeles County. Part of the densely populated San Gabriel Valley spreads across the southern quarter of the quadrangle. The remaining three-quarters of the quadrangle consist of the rugged terrain of the central San Gabriel Mountains. Most of mountainous part of the quadrangle lies within the Angeles National Forest, except for a fringe of frontal ridges that typically extends less than a mile north of the valley floor. Parts of the Cities of Monrovia, Duarte, and Irwindale, as well as the entire City of Bradbury, lie within the valley part of the quadrangle.

The San Gabriel Mountains rise very abruptly from the valley and reach elevations of over 5400 feet at Monrovia Peak in the northwestern part of the quadrangle. The mountains are composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks that range in age from Precambrian through Cretaceous. The San Gabriel Mountains of today rose to their current elevation beginning in Pleistocene time as the ancient rocks were thrust upward and toward the south along range-bounding faults belonging to the Sierra Madre Fault system.

Streams draining from the San Gabriel Mountains have deposited alluvial fans in the valley. The largest stream in the mountains, the San Gabriel River, drains a watershed of over 200 square miles. The river enters the valley west of Azusa, and has deposited a large alluvial fan that extends to the south across the valley. The central part of this fan is used for flood control basins, including the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin, ground-water recharge, and sand and gravel mining. The developed areas of the valley are built on the edges of this fan and on the smaller alluvial fan from Sawpit Canyon to the west in Monrovia.

The valley areas of the Azusa Quadrangle are covered by alluvial fans of various ages, including remnants of very old fans along the front of the San Gabriel Mountains, older alluvial surfaces, and the young San Gabriel River fan. The San Gabriel River fan is composed of gravel and mixtures of sand and boulder gravel, reflecting the major flows on the San Gabriel River. Smaller fans, such as that of Sawpit Canyon, are typically composed of sand and gravel. In the Azusa Quadrangle, the alluvial units have been subdivided into two generations of very old alluvium (Qvoa, Qvoa1, Qvoa2), older alluvium (Qoa and Qof1), four generations of young alluvium (Qya4 - Qya1) and active wash and fan deposits.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazards of surface faulting and fault rupture to built structures. Fault rupture generally occurs within 50 feet of an active fault line and is limited to the immediate area of the fault zone where the fault breaks along the surface. The project site is

not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. No impact would occur.

ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

Southern California is a seismically active region that is prone to earthquakes. There is a potential for the project site to experience strong seismic ground shaking in the future from local and regional faults. However, the Proposed Project would be built to the standards and requirements of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Standard Design Manual, the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, and the Additions and Amendments to the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. No impact would occur.

iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located in an area designated as having high liquefaction potential because of shallow depth to groundwater. Consideration of this factor has been incorporated into the project design. No impact would occur.

iv)	Landslides?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The terrain of the project site is generally flat. There is no potential for landslides to occur. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project would be constructed within an existing drainage basin. No impact would occur.

c)	Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located in an area designated as having high liquefaction potential because of shallow depth to groundwater. Consideration of this factor has been incorporated into the project design. No impact.

d)	Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is a modification or improvement to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the construction of siphon between two retention basins. The project is not located on an expansive soil. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The Proposed Project is a modification or improvement to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the construction of a siphon between two retention basins. The project would not involve the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Setting

As mentioned earlier, the Proposed Project area is within an existing Drainage Basin. Up to 1,000 cubic yards of alluvial material will be excavated for the project. Construction equipment will be diesel powered and as such the vehicles will have diesel fuel within their tanks. In the case of accidental spillage or rupture, mandated protocols will be followed to ensure that the spillage will be contained in a small area and cleaned up according to Federal and State regulations and standard practices.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines and regulates hazardous waste under the regulatory authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Hazardous wastes are discarded materials that are so classified because of the public health and safety concerns they pose. The EPA specifically classifies the residual remaining in a container that has held hazardous materials or substances as hazardous waste.

Hazardous or flammable substances that may be used during the construction phase of the project would include vehicle fuels and oils for the operation of heavy equipment. Diesel and/or other construction equipment and vehicle fuels would be used; however, the transport, storage, and usage of hazardous materials such as fuels are regulated by the State and would be in compliance with all State regulations during construction. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Hazardous or flammable substances that may be used during the construction phase of the project would include vehicle fuels and oils for the operation of heavy equipment. Diesel and/or other construction equipment and vehicle fuels would be used; however, the transport, storage, and usage of hazardous materials such as fuels are regulated by the State and would be in compliance with all State regulations

during construction. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒

There are no schools within one-quarter mile of the Proposed Project. In addition, the nature of the project will not use hazardous or acutely hazardous substances as part of the project. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is not located on a site designated as a hazardous waste site under Government Code 65962.5. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located 3.8 miles northeast of the El Monte Airport, a County-owned airfield. As such, the Santa Fe Spreading Dam/Basin Complex is not within an airport land use planning area. In addition, no habitable structures would be built as part of the project; therefore, people would not be residing within the project area. People working at the project site would not be exposed to a safety hazard since the project site is not within an airport land use plan. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No temporary lane or roadway closures would be part of the project construction and operations activities; therefore, local or regional emergency response or emergency evacuation routes would not be altered. All construction vehicle and equipment staging will be accommodated on-site, and no roadway improvements are necessary for project implementation. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
h)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is not located in an urban-wildland interface. The project site is located adjacent to a recreational area, but would not expose people or structures to a greater risk of fire related damage, injury, or death in excess of existing levels. No impact would occur.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Setting

The Proposed Project is within the drainage area for the San Gabriel River and in the Santa Fe Spreading Basin. At present, the amount of water flowing through the river is minimal due to the relatively dry climate of the last few years. Approximately 1000 cubic yards will be excavated as part of the project. Permits will be acquired from all relevant jurisdictions and all conditions of approval will be followed in order to stay in compliance with the Army Corp of Engineers, the Southwest Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project site is within the drainage area for the San Gabriel River and in the Santa Fe Spreading Basin. The area is subject to compliance with the 1987 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (or Clean Water Act) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and its Section 402(p) that established a framework for regulating municipal, industrial, and construction stormwater discharges. The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) administers water quality control policy as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated agency. For this purpose, and to implement prescriptions of the California Water Code, the State is divided into nine administrative areas. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has jurisdiction over the proposed project area and the County of Los Angeles is the designated NPDES Principal Permittee for the area.

The Proposed Project would not generate any excessive runoff or violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. In addition, the project would not contribute any significant increases in the quantity of pesticides, fertilizers, and detergents into the storm drain system. Construction activities involve excavation and disturbance of surface soils during site preparation and have the potential to result in possible discharge of sediment into surface waters if not properly controlled. Therefore, operational safeguards have been and would continue to be implemented to minimize the possibility of an accidental release by the project. The project would implement the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management to minimize runoff containing water quality contaminants. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is a modification to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the reconstruction of a siphon between two retention basins. The Proposed Project would not result in the depletion of groundwater resources or a lowering of the groundwater table and would not affect the rate of flow or quantity of ground waters. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would involve minor excavation and grading needed to construct the siphon and concrete ramp and would slightly change existing drainage patterns at the project site. However, such changes would not significantly alter the hydrological characteristics at the project site. During construction, water would be redirected away from the work area to eliminate adverse impacts to water quality from contact with construction material. With the implementation of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Best Management Practices for runoff control during construction, no significant erosion or siltation problems would occur on- or off-site. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would involve minor excavation and grading needed to construct the siphon and concrete ramp and would slightly change existing drainage patterns at the project site. The Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or offsite. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would involve minor excavation and grading need to construct the siphon. The

Proposed Project would not create or contribute surface runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial source of polluted runoff. No significant change in the amount of surface runoff volumes from the Proposed Project is anticipated. No impact would occur.

f)	Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

During construction of the Proposed Project, the contractor would be required to follow County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Best Management Practices designed to prevent spillage and/or runoff of construction-related materials, sediment, or contaminants associated with construction activity. Water will be redirected away from the work area during construction to eliminate adverse impacts to water quality from contact with construction material. Additionally, equipment would be well maintained to prevent pollutants from entering the stream. As a result, the Proposed Project is not expected to degrade water quality. No impact would occur.

g)	Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would reconstruct a siphon to enable flow and eliminate standing water conditions upstream. No housing would be would be constructed or placed within a 100-year flood hazard areas as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map (FEMA 2006). No impact would occur.

h)	Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would reconstruct the siphon between Basin 2 to Basin 4 across Basin 3. Basin 3 is located downstream of the outlet of Bradbury Channel. The siphon impedes flow from the channel. The Proposed Project would reconstruct the siphon at a lower elevation (approximately 3-1/2 feet) to enable flow and eliminate standing water conditions upstream. In Addition, a permanent concrete ramp would be constructed from the levee between Basin 3 and Basin 4 to access the siphon. The project would not impede or redirect flood flows. A less than significant impact would occur.

i)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. No impact would occur.

j)	Would the project cause or expose people and structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☐	☒

The project area is not susceptible to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

IX. LAND USE PLANNING

Setting

The Proposed Project area is within a larger flood control area and is surrounded by commercial and industrial areas. According to the Irwindale General Plan, the Spreading Basin is designated as Open Space. Under Irwindale's zoning ordinance the entire Dam Recreation Area and Spreading Basin are classified as Agricultural.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project physically divide an established community?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project is located in an existing drainage/flood control basin and would not physically divide any community. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation. No impact would occur.

c)	Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project site is not located within a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan area. No impact would occur.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Setting

The entire Dam complex is located within an area known for extractive industries. However, the Drainage Basin itself is off-limits to such activities.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project constructs a siphon within an existing Drainage Basin and would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources of value to the region and State. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located in an area designated as Open Space under the City of Irwindale General Plan, and as Agricultural under the City's local zoning ordinance. The project area is not delineated as a mineral resource recovery site. No impact would occur.

XI. NOISE

Setting

The Proposed Project is located in a heavily industrialized section of the San Gabriel Valley of which a large portion is designated as part of the Santa Fe Dam Flood Control Complex and located next to two major Southern California freeways that generate significant amounts of road noise. The construction of the Proposed Project would last approximately two months.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would involve the use of heavy construction equipment that could generate noise levels in excess of standards established by the County of Los Angeles General Plan. For various land uses, the County has established interior and exterior noise standards based on the CNEL or Community Noise Equivalent Level, a 24-hour time weighted annual average; however these impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction. Also, there are no sensitive receptors within the immediate vicinity of the project site. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would increase groundborne vibration and noise levels; however, these impacts would be temporary and cease upon completion of construction. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Once operational, the project would not create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in the ambient noise levels during construction that would cease upon completion. Construction-related noise impacts would be attenuated to less than significant impact levels by factors related to site topography and land cover. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 3.89 miles away from the El Monte Airport; however, the project is not included as part of the El Monte Airport land use plan and does not include any residential or commercial development. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is located approximately 3.89 miles away from the El Monte Airport; however, the project is not included as part of the El Monte Airport land use plan and does not include any residential or commercial development. No impact would occur.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Setting

The Proposed Project site is located in a flood control basin within a very heavily industrialized area. No residential structures are located within or adjacent to the project site. The Proposed Project is an improvement to an existing flood-control facility and as such would not have any growth inducement tendencies or displace residents and/or housing.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not induce population growth because it does not provide any housing or expand the infrastructure necessary for housing. No impact would occur.

b)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

c)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project involves the construction of a siphon and concrete ramp within an existing Drainage Basin and would not displace substantial numbers of people. No impact would occur.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Setting

The Proposed Project lies within the boundaries of existing police and fire services. A full range of cost-effective fire services are provided in the City as part of the regional fire protection system through a cooperative agreement with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The Irwindale Police Department is responsible for services associated with enforcement of local, state and federal statutes, public safety, and order maintenance activities on a daily basis, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Public education is be provided by Covina Valley Unified School District. Health services in the immediate area are provided by the City of Hope National Medical Center, the County of Los Angeles Medical Center, and Foothill Presbyterian Hospital.

Below is a listing of the local service providers:

Health Services:

City of Hope National Medical Center
1500 East Duarte Road,
Duarte, California 91010

County of Los Angeles Medical Center
4024 Durfee Avenue
El Monte, CA 91732

Foothill Presbyterian Hospital
250 South Grand Avenue
Glendora, CA 91741

Police Department:
Irwindale Police Department
5050 North Irwindale Avenue
Irwindale, California 91706

Fire Department:
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Station 48
15546 East Arrow Highway
Irwindale, CA 91706

Schools:
Covina Valley Unified School District
Merwin Elementary School
16125 Cypress Street
Irwindale, CA, 91706

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any or the public services: Fire protection? Police protection? Schools? Parks? Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would involve the construction of a siphon and concrete ramp within an existing Drainage Basin and would not result in adverse impacts to fire, police school, parks or any other public facilities. No impact would occur.

XIV. RECREATION

Setting

The Spreading Basin is south of the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area and is a separate from the recreational area. Recreational use is not permitted in the Spreading Basin.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would involve the construction of a siphon and concrete ramp within an existing Drainage Basin and would not increase the use of regional parks or recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is a drainage improvement and would not create the need for any recreational

facility expansion. No impact would occur.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Setting

The Proposed Project site is within a drainage and flood control facility that is surrounded by two major freeways and local surface streets. This portion of the facility is not open for public use or recreational purposes and serves solely as a critical flood control and drainage control facility for the San Gabriel area of the County of Los Angeles. The nearest airport is at El Monte and is approximately 3.89 miles northeast of the project site.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would not generate any traffic, other than temporary construction traffic and occasional maintenance vehicles, and as such would not increase the volume to capacity ratio for roads or intersections in the area to a significant degree. Construction of the project would result in a temporary increase in traffic associated with the movement of construction vehicles, equipment, and personnel on area roadways. The trucks transporting materials and worker vehicles are depicted in trips rather than number of trucks on the site at one time. The majority of the equipment would require one trip to the site and then one trip off the site. This would not result in a substantial increase in traffic. Construction vehicles and machinery would be staged in a location on the site that would minimize construction interference with normal traffic patterns. Once operational, the Proposed Project would not increase traffic. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not cause any roads within the Congestion Management Plan for the County of Los Angeles to exceed local standards because the project in and of itself would not generate traffic, other than temporary construction traffic and occasional maintenance vehicles. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project is approximately 3.89 miles northeast from El Monte Airport and is not within the authorized traffic patterns of the airport. The Proposed Project would not have an impact on El Monte Airport's air traffic patterns. No impact would occur.

d)	Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would result in an improvement to an existing drainage and flood control facility. The Proposed Project would not result in or increase hazards due to a design feature. No impact would occur.

e)	Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project is in the Santa Fe Dam Spreading Basin. This area is not available for public or recreational use. The need for emergency services is minimal. However, if a need arose, access is available. If workers are injured while in the Basin, there is access available for emergency services personnel. As such the project would not impact the ability of emergency personnel to access the site. No impact would occur.

f)	Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not change on-street parking capacity. Parking for construction workers would be provided within a construction staging area on the project site. No additional off-site parking would be required for the project. No impact would occur.

g)	Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The Proposed Project would not conflict with known adopted policies supporting alternative transportation. The project does not involve roadway modifications affecting any existing or future bus routes, bus turnouts, bicycle lanes, or other alternative transportation facilities. No impact would occur.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Setting

The Proposed Project would not require any utilities or services. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) operates and maintains the water system for the project area. The management of solid waste in the City of Irwindale involves public and private refuse collection services as well as public and private operation of solid waste transfer, resource recovery, and disposal facilities.

Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not generate wastewater. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact would occur

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. No impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs. No impacts would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g)	Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The Area of Impact onsite encompasses approximately 0.309 acres. The project would require the removal of approximately 0.033 acres of Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, 0.078 acres of Southern Willow Scrub, 0.078 acres of Ruderal, and 0.020 acres of Riparian Herbaceous vegetation communities.

A literature review and reconnaissance-level biological survey were conducted in November 2006 (Chambers Group, Inc., 2006). Five wildlife species identified in the literature review have a moderate to high potential to occur on the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Project site: coast horned lizard *(Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii)*, southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida)*, two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii)*, and American badger (*Taxidea taxus)*. None these five species are federal- or state-listed threatened and/or endangered and, therefore, do not require focused surveys. Based on correspondence with Scott Harris (CDFG) on December 18 and 20, 2007, the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher has a low potential to be within the project vicinity, but was found to be absent from the project footprint. Impacts to federal- or state-listed species would be less than significant.

Seven sensitive and one federal- and/or state-listed plant species, Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), were determined to have a potential to occur on the Proposed Project Site. Braunton's milk-vetch, although highly unlikely to be present onsite, could not be confirmed absent from the Proposed Project Site during the reconnaissance survey because the survey fell outside the flowering period for the species.

The presence of the California Gnatcatcher was discovered on the project site after the completion of the biological reconnaissance survey in November 2006 (Siddiqui, Naeem, 2007).

The Proposed Project would result in 0.098 acres of temporary impacts to USACE and CDFG jurisdictional wetlands within the Bradbury Channel in Spreading Basin 3E (Chambers Group, Inc., 2006). No other waterways will be impacted besides the Bradbury Channel.

Hydrological features associated with definable channels or wetlands were located on the Proposed Project site. A formal jurisdictional delineation survey was required for the project. This delineation was completed on November 9, 2006 (Chambers Group, Inc., 2006). Construction of the siphon pipeline would involve excavation of a portion of the stream in order to put the pipeline in place.

The discharge of dredged or fill material (temporarily or permanently) into waters of the United States requires prior authorization from the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Activities that usually involve a regulated discharge of dredged or fill materials include (but are not limited to) grading, placing of riprap for erosion control, pouring concrete, laying sod, preparing soil for planting (except for ongoing farming operations), stockpiling excavated material, mechanized removal of vegetation, and driving of piles for certain types of structures. Any activity that results in the movement, grading, or stockpiling of material within a water of the United States (i.e., not "incidental fallback") is regulated by the USACE. Best management practices will be utilized throughout construction of the siphon pipeline to minimize impacts to the wetland and riparian habitat on the Proposed Project site.

A less than significant impact would occur with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures B-1 through B-3.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project would not result in impacts that would be considered cumulatively considerable. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of the project are combined with the impacts of related projects in proximity to the project site such that impacts occur that are greater than the impacts of the project alone. As discussed above, the impacts associated with the Proposed Project are temporary in nature and would cease upon completion of construction. There are no known projects at this time in the vicinity of the Proposed Project that would contribute to cumulative impacts. A less than significant impact would occur.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would not result in any adverse environmental effects on human beings. The project is a modification to the existing Santa Fe Drainage Basin, specifically the construction of an underground siphon pipe between two retention basins. No impact would occur.

List of Preparers

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References

California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), Scenic Highway Program website: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm, visited on 7/20/07

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FINAL

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon
SCH: 2008041146

Prepared for:

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
302 Brookside Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373

JULY 2008

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Introduction

On April 28, 2008, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) distributed to public agencies and the general public the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §21091 and State CEQA Guidelines §15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND was provided from April 28, 2008 to May 28, 2008.

Project Description

The Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon (Proposed Project) is located in the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin in an unincorporated area in Irwindale in the County of Los Angele. The project site is in Township 1 North/Range 10 West approximately 34°07' 55" North latitude and 117°57' 23" West longitude of the Azusa Quadrangle USGS 7.5 Minute Map.

The Santa Fe Spreading Grounds consists of multiple spreading basins. A siphon conveys water from Basin 2 to Basin 4 across Basin 3. Basin 3 is located downstream of the outlet of Bradbury Channel. The siphon impedes flow from the channel. The siphon will be reconstructed at a lower elevation (approximately 3-1/2 feet) to enable flow and eliminate standing water conditions upstream of the siphon.

A permanent concrete ramp 14 feet wide will be constructed from the levee between Basin 3 and Basin 4 to access the siphon. The location of the access ramp is over existing grouted riprap.

Water will be redirected away from the work area during construction to eliminate adverse impacts to water quality from contact with construction material. Construction activity will cause minimal amount of vegetation loss in the channel. Equipment would be well maintained to prevent pollutants from entering the stream.

During construction, the contractor will be required to follow Best Management Practices, which Public Works has designed to prevent spillage and/or runoff of construction-related materials, sediment, or contaminants associated with construction activity.

The contractor will properly dispose of excess material. Depending on construction methods, up to 1,000 cubic yards of material may be excavated. The existing .018-acre footprint of the siphon across the channel will remain unchanged in size. A temporary construction easement will restrict the width of the impact area to 40 feet for the access ramp and 54 feet for the siphon. Construction is estimated to take approximately 60 days to complete.

Findings

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the proposed project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and is incorporated in the Draft MND. Based on this Initial Study, it has been determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment, once all proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- There was no potential for adverse impacts on aesthetics, agricultural resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, minerals, population and housing, public services or utilities and service systems associated with the Proposed Project.

- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: air quality, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation/traffic.

- Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in this MND would reduce potential project-related adverse impacts on biological resources to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures and project conditions have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project and will be fully implemented by Public Works to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts identified in this MND. These mitigation measures will be included in a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP).

B-1: A focused survey shall be conducted prior to construction activities to confirm the presence or absence of Braunton's milk-vetch. The survey must be completed within 30 days prior to the commencement of construction.

B-2: In order to avoid potential impacts to sensitive bird species, all construction activities should be scheduled to occur between August 1st and February 28th. If grading and/or grubbing activities must occur during the bird breeding season (i.e. between March 1st and June 30th), a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey for the presence/absence of nests within and adjacent to the Proposed Project site. The search area may include a buffer area of up to 500 feet from the limits of grading. All nests of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Federal Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, and other regulations resulting from this survey shall be identified and located. The survey protocols for both breeding and non-breeding periods are described below. These surveys shall be conducted prior to the commencement of construction.

- From March 15 through June 30, a minimum of **six (6)** surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart. The protocol for the breeding season was designed to provide a 95% confidence level of detecting coastal California gnatcatchers at a site when they are present.

- From July 1 through March 14, a minimum of **nine (9)** surveys shall be conducted at least two weeks apart.

B-3: As per Naeem Siddiqui of CDFG, mitigation measures will be implemented onsite to minimize temporary impacts to sensitive habitat within the Area of Impact, including 1) restoration of existing native vegetation; 2) exotic vegetation removal; and 3) replacement of exotic vegetation with native vegetation at a 2:1 ratio.

CEQA REQUIREMENTS REGARDING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (b) outlines parameters for submitting comments, and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment of negative declarations should be, "on the proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If persons and public agencies believe that the project may have a significant effect, they should: (1) Identify the specific effect; (2) explain why they believe the effect would occur, and; (3) Explain why they believe the effect would be significant."

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (c) further advises, "Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence." Section 15204 (d) also states, "Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency's statutory responsibility." Section 15204 (e) states, "This section shall not be

used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section."

In accordance with Public Resources Code 21092.5 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency shall notify any public agency which comments on a negative declaration, of the public hearing or hearings, if any, on the project for which the negative declaration was prepared. If notice to the commenting public agency is provided pursuant to Section 21092, the notice shall satisfy the requirement of this subdivision.

Comments and Response to Comments Received on the Draft MND

This section provides responses to written comments received during the 30-day public review period.

All comments on the Draft IS/MND, and their responses, are presented and organized as follows:

- A table summarizing the written comments received on the Draft IS/MND;
- Responses to comments received; and
- Complete copies of written comments received.

CEQA §21091(f) and State CEQA Guidelines §15074 state that the Lead Agency (County) must consider the MND together with any comments received before approving the project. Formal responses to comments are not required for an IS/MND. However, adequate information should be in the record explaining why the comment does not affect the conclusion that there are no potential significant effects. This document serves this purpose and is considered part of the record for the Proposed Project.

Comments Received on the Draft IS/MND

This section provides a summary of written comments received during the public review period on the Draft IS/MND, as well as a complete copy of the written comments received. Table 1 indicates the number assigned to each comment letter received on the Draft IS/MND, commentor name, date of correspondence, comment number assigned to each comment, and the topic for each written comment. The letters are numbered sequentially by commentor. The letter number is then used as the prefix for individual comments, which are also numbered sequentially after the prefix. Each letter has been scanned and the numbered comments have been indicated on each letter.

Table 1
Written Comments Received on the Draft IS/MND

Letter	Commentor/Agency	Date	Comment Number	Comment Topics
1	Dave Singleton, Program Analyst, Native American Heritage Commission	May 5, 2008	1-1	➢ Archeological Resources
2	Katherine Mrowka, Chief, State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights	May 9, 2008	2-1	➢ Division of Water Rights

Response to Comments

This section includes a written response to all comments received on the Draft IS/MND. The responses are provided in the order in which they are presented in Table 1. For referral purposes, this section also provides a complete copy of the written comments received on the Draft IS/MND. Each comment letter is

produced in its entirety, including attachments. All letters are available for review at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 S. Freemont Avenue, 11th Floor, Alhambra, CA, 91803.

Comment letters and specific comments are given letters and numbers for reference purposes. Where sections of the IS/MND are excerpted in this document, the sections are shown indented. Changes to the IS/MND text are shown in **bold and double underline** for additions and ~~strikeout~~ for deletions.

LETTER 1 – Dave Singleton, Program Analyst, Native American Heritage Commission – 3 pages

PDD SAG

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
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e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

May 5, 2008

Mr. Dale Sakamoto
LS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: SCH#2008041146; CEQA Notice of Completion; Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project; County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Sakamoto:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) is the state agency designated to protect California's Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the California Code of Regulations §15064.5(b)(c (CEQA guidelines). Section 15382 of the 2007 CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action:

√ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS) for possible 'recorded sites' in locations where the development will or might occur.. Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov. The record search will determine:

- If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
- If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
- If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
- If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

1-1

√ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

- The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure.
- The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

1-2

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

- A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation with name, township, range and section; .
- The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE). In some cases, the existence of a Native American cultural resources may be known only to a local tribe(s).

1-3

√ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
- A culturally-affiliated Native American tribe may be the only source of information about a Sacred Site/Native American cultural resource.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

1-4

√ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.

- CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens.

1-5

√ Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) mandate procedures to be followed, including that construction or excavation be stopped in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery until the county coroner or medical examiner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. Note that §7052 of the Health & Safety Code states that disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony.

1-6

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in §15370 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines), when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning and implementation

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Native American Contacts
Los Angeles County
May 5, 2008

Charles Cooke
32835 Santiago Road
Acton , CA 93510
(661) 733-1812 - cell
suscol@intox.net
Chumash
Fernandeno
Tataviam
Kitanemuk

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission
Anthony Morales, Chairperson
PO Box 693
San Gabriel , CA 91778
ChiefRBwife@aol.com
(626) 286-1632
(626) 286-1758 - Home
(626) 286-1262 Fax
Gabrielino Tongva

LA City/County Native American Indian Comm
Ron Andrade, Director
3175 West 6th Street, Rm. 403
Los Angeles , CA 90020
(213) 351-5324
(213) 386-3995 FAX

Gabrielino/Tongva Council / Gabrielino Tongva Nation
Sam Dunlap, Tribal Secretary
761 Terminal Street; Bldg 1, 2nd floor
Los Angeles , CA 90021
office @tongvatribe.net
(213) 489-5001 - Office
(909) 262-9351 - cell
(213) 489-5002 Fax
Gabrielino Tongva

Ti'At Society
Cindi Alvitre
6515 E. Seaside Walk, #C
Long Beach , CA 90803
calvitre@yahoo.com
(714) 504-2468 Cell
Gabrielino

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Robert Dorame, Tribal Chair/Cultural Resources
5450 Slauson, Ave, Suite 151 PMB
Culver City , CA 90230
gtongva@verizon.net
562-761-6417 - voice
562-925-7989 - fax
Gabrielino Tongva

Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
John Tommy Rosas, Tribal Admin.
,
tattnlaw@gmail.com
310-570-6567
Gabrielino Tongva

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed, SCH#2008041146; CEQA Notice of Completion; Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project; County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Los Angeles County, California.

Response to Letter 1

Comments 1-1 – 1-6

This comment identifies procedures for determining whether a Proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact archaeological resources. The Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon is a managed Flood Control Basin. The USACE constructed the Basin during the 1940's. At that time, the Basin was graded extensively. The potential for previously unidentified archaeological resources to be encountered during construction of the Proposed Project is unlikely. Also, the area being impacted by the Proposed Project lies between two basins that were constructed and have been in operation since the 1940's. The project would not disturb any previously undisturbed land.

No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment. No further analysis is warranted.

LETTER 2 – Katherine Mrowka, Chief, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights – 1 page

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor ♦ Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ 916.341.5300
P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
Fax: 916.341.5400 ♦ www.waterrights.ca.gov

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

In Reply Refer to:KDM:266.0

MAY 0 9 2008

Dale Sakamoto
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Freemont Avenue, 11th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Sakamoto:

SANTA FE RESERVOIR SPREADING GROUNDS SIPHON PROJECT – SAN GABRIEL RIVER IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY – SCH# 2008041146

The Division of Water Rights (Division) has reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project. The Santa Fe Spreading Grounds consists of multiple spreading basins to convey water to groundwater storage. The current project involves reconstruction of the siphon from the channel to the basins. The San Gabriel River flows near the project site, and water is conveyed to the spreading basins using the Bradbury Channel.

2-1

An appropriative water right issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is required for diversion of surface water to groundwater storage. Los Angeles County does not have any water rights on file with the State Water Board for storage from the San Gabriel River. Pursuant to Water Code section 1052, any diversion of water without a valid basis of right may be subject to administrative civil liability of up to $500 per day.

Although the Mitigated Negative Declaration evaluated impacts to biological resources in the footprint of the current project, the 0.309-acre area affected by re-construction of the siphon, the document did not evaluate any potential impacts to instream public trust resources associated with diverting water to groundwater storage. An assessment of the impacts to instream resources should be included in the document.

2-2

I can be contacted at (916) 341-5363.

Sincerely,

Katherine Mrowka

Katherine Mrowka, Chief
Watershed Unit 3

cc: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Response to Letter 2

Comment 2-1

In response to the Division of Water Rights comment included in the letter from the State Water Resources Control Board, Section 5101 (g) of the State Water Code states that no statement of diversion needs to be filed with the Board if the diversion is included in an annual report that is filed with a court by a watermaster appointed by a court. The Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds is within the area of jurisdiction of the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster.

Also, a License for Diversion and Use of Water was issued in 1973 (Application 9118, Permit 7175, and License 9991, State Water Resources Control Board, dated February 9, 1973) to the San Gabriel Valley Protective Association, a corporation, on behalf of association members and all other overlying landowners within San Gabriel River Basin, downstream from Morris Dam.

Among the listed points of diversion is (5) Santa Fe Spreading Grounds. The license was issued expressly subject to the terms of the October1, 1945 contract signed by the Metropolitan Water District, San Gabriel Valley Protective Association, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works) relating to the use of Morris Dam.

Comment 2-2

In response to the potential impacts to instream public trust resources associated with diverting water to groundwater storage comment, there is no significant impact to instream public resources because there is no new or additional diversion. Public Works does not divert water for ground water storage into Basin 3 fed by Bradbury Channel. Bradbury Channel flows through Basin 3. Public Works would temporarily divert the flow within Basin 3 around the construction footprint without affecting the overall flow of water. The footprint of the rebuilt construction would be over an existing constructed concrete footprint. The project does not include any water diversion features. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment. No further analysis is warranted.

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH# 2008041146), corrected as noted above; Comments and Response to Comments; Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon Project in Irwindale, County of Los Angeles.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the County of Los Angeles (County) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of the County. The County, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the MND and MMRP.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	Title

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon
SCH: 2008041146

Prepared for:

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
302 Brookside Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373

JULY 2008

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INTRODUCTION

CEQA Requirements

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that when a public agency completes an environmental document that includes measures to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects, the public agency must adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the changes to the project that it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The appropriate reporting or monitoring plan must be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6).

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (County) would coordinate monitoring of the implementation of all mitigation measures for the project. Monitoring will include: 1) verification that each mitigation measure has been implemented; 2) recordation of the actions taken to implement each mitigation measure; and 3) retention of records in the project file.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the MMRP for the Proposed Project include the following:

- To provide assurance and documentation that mitigation measures are implemented as planned;
- To collect analytical data to assist District administration in its determination of the effectiveness of the adopted mitigation measures;
- To report periodically regarding project compliance with mitigation measures, performance standards and/or other conditions; and
- To make available to the public, upon request, the District record of compliance with project mitigation measures.

Overview of the Project

The Santa Fe Reservoir Spreading Grounds Siphon (Proposed Project) is located in the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin in an unincorporated area in Irwindale in the County of Los Angeles. The project site is in Township 1 North/Range 10 West approximately 34°07' 55" North latitude and 117°57' 23" West longitude of the Azusa Quadrangle USGS 7.5 Minute Map.

The Santa Fe Spreading Grounds consists of multiple spreading basins. A siphon conveys water from Basin 2 to Basin 4 across Basin 3. Basin 3 is located downstream of the outlet of Bradbury Channel. The siphon impedes flow from the channel. The siphon will be reconstructed at a lower elevation (approximately 3-1/2 feet) to enable flow and eliminate standing water conditions upstream of the siphon.

A permanent concrete ramp 14 feet wide will be constructed from the levee between Basin 3 and Basin 4 to access the siphon. The location of the access ramp is over existing grouted riprap.

Water will be redirected away from the work area during construction to eliminate adverse impacts to water quality from contact with construction material. Construction activity will cause minimal amount of vegetation loss in the channel. Equipment would be well maintained to prevent pollutants from entering the stream.

During construction, the contractor will be required to follow Best Management Practices of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works designed to prevent spillage and/or runoff of construction-related materials, sediment, or contaminants associated with construction activity.

The contractor will properly dispose of excess material. Depending on construction methods, up to 1,000 cubic yards of material may be excavated. The existing .018-acre footprint of the siphon across the channel will remain unchanged in size. A temporary construction easement will restrict the width of the impact area to 40 feet for the access ramp and 54 feet for the siphon. Construction is estimated to take approximately 60 days to complete.

Organization of the Mitigation Monitoring Program

The following describes the various sections of the MMRP:

Introduction - Provides an overview of CEQA's monitoring and reporting requirements, program objectives, the project for which the program has been prepared, and the manner in which the mitigation monitoring program has been organized.

MMRP - Describes the County entities responsible for implementation of the mitigation monitoring plan, the plan scope, procedures for monitoring and reporting, public availability of documents, the process for making changes to the program, types of mitigation measures, and the manner in which monitoring will be coordinated to ensure implementation of mitigation measures.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Summary - Outlines the impacts and mitigation measures, responsible entities, and the timing for monitoring and reporting for each mitigation measure included in the plan. A form for actual use by the Facilities, Planning & Development office and/or its assigned agents will be constructed from this information for each responsible entity.

Report Preparation - Lists the individuals involved in development of this MMRP.

DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

Mitigation Monitoring Procedures

This MMRP delegates responsibilities for monitoring the project, and also allows responsible County entities flexibility and discretion in determining how best to monitor implementation. Monitoring procedures will vary according to the type of mitigation measure. The timing for monitoring and reporting is described in the monitoring and reporting summary table included as part of this program (see page # 5). Adequate monitoring consists of demonstrating that monitoring procedures took place and that mitigation measures were implemented.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring program, the County will utilize existing systems where appropriate. For instance, with any major construction project, the administration generally has at least one inspector assigned to monitor project construction. These inspectors are familiar with a broad range of regulatory issues and will provide first line oversight for much of the monitoring program.

Responsibilities of County include identification of typical mitigation measure-related issues such as noisy equipment, dust, safety problems, etc. Any problems are generally corrected through directions to the contractors, or through other appropriate, established mechanisms. Internal reporting procedures are already in place to document any problems and to address broader implementation issues.

Reporting Procedures

The County would be responsible for monitoring and implementing the mitigation measures included in this monitoring plan.

Reporting consists of establishing a record that a mitigation measure is being implemented, and generally involves the following steps:

- The County distributes reporting forms to the appropriate company office (as indicated in the summary form) or employs the office's existing reporting process for verification of compliance.

- Responsible entities verify compliance by signing the monitoring and reporting form and/or documenting compliance using their own internal procedures when monitoring is triggered.

- Responsible entities provide the County with verification that monitoring has been conducted and ensure, as applicable, that mitigation measures have been implemented.

- The County prepares construction activities reports during the construction phase and incorporates project reports, as appropriate, into the periodic reports summarizing all district mitigation monitoring efforts.

The reporting forms prepared by the County would document the implementation status of mitigation measures of the project. The progress reports describe the monitoring status of all project mitigation measures. Project reporting forms and periodic status reports will be available at the County.

The County would also be responsible for assisting their contractor with reporting responsibilities to ensure that they understand their charge and complete their reporting procedures accurately and on schedule.

Public Availability

All monitoring reporting forms, summaries, data sheets, and correction instructions related to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for Santa Fe Springs Spreading Grounds Siphon Project would be available for public review upon request at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works offices during normal business hours.

Program Changes

If minor changes are required to the MMRP, they would be made in accordance with CEQA and would be permitted after further review by the County. Such changes could include reassignment of monitoring and reporting responsibilities and/or redesign to make any appropriate improvements. No change would be permitted unless the mitigation monitoring and reporting plan continues to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6.

Types of Mitigation Measures Being Monitored

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Fe Springs Spreading Grounds Siphon Project is a "project-specific" evaluation as defined in the CEQA Guidelines.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration recommends three project specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts related to air quality, biological resources, and noise during construction. Compliance with these mitigation measures will be accomplished through administrative controls over project planning and implementation, in this case, through incorporation of specific construction methods, and verification of construction in accordance with these special provisions. Monitoring would be accomplished as described previously under "Reporting Procedures" through verification and certification by personnel.

In general, implementation of the MMRP will require the following actions:

- Appropriate mitigation measures would be included in construction documents.
- Departments with reporting responsibilities would review the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, which provides general background information on the reasons for including specified mitigation measures.
- Problems or exceptions to compliance would be addressed by the County as appropriate.
- Periodic meetings may be held during project implementation to report on compliance with mitigation measures.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING SUMMARY

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Entity	Monitoring Triggers	Monitoring Entity	Compliance Action	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Comments
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
B-1: A focused survey shall be conducted prior to construction activities to confirm the presence or absence of Braunton's milk-vetch. The survey must be completed within 30 days prior to the commencement of construction.	Public Works	2	Public Works	Submittal of clearance survey memorandum to CDFG & Issuance of a grading permit			
B-2: In order to avoid potential impacts to sensitive bird species, all construction activities should be scheduled to occur between August 1st and February 28th. If grading and/or grubbing activities must occur during the bird breeding season (i.e. between March 1st and June 30th), a qualified biologist(s) shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey for the presence/absence of nests within and adjacent to the Proposed Project site. The search area may include a buffer area of up to 500 feet from the limits of grading. All nests of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Federal Endangered Species Act, California Endangered Species Act, and other regulations resulting from this survey shall be identified and located. The survey protocols for both breeding and non-breeding periods	Public Works	2	Public Works	Submittal of survey report			

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Entity	Monitoring Triggers	Monitoring Entity	Compliance Action	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Comments
are described below. These surveys shall be conducted prior to the commencement of construction. • From March 15 through June 30, a minimum of **six (6)** surveys shall be conducted at least one week apart. The protocol for the breeding season was designed to provide a 95% confidence level of detecting coastal California gnatcatchers at a site when they are present. • From July 1 through March 14, a minimum of **nine (9)** surveys shall be conducted at least two weeks apart.							
B-3: As per Naeem Siddiqui of CDFG, mitigation measures will be implemented onsite to minimize temporary impacts to sensitive habitat within the Area of Impact, including 1) restoration of existing native vegetation; 2) exotic vegetation removal; and 3) replacement of exotic vegetation with native vegetation at a 2:1 ratio.	Public Works	3/4	Public Works	Flag sensitive vegetation during pre-construction clearance survey (B-1) Train construction personnel to avoid sensitive vegetation Submit report to CDFG identifying success criteria for vegetation restoration			

Monitoring Triggers

1 Planning Stage (schematic design and design development)
2 Pre-Construction
3 Construction
4 Post-Construction/Commencement of Operation
5 On-going through Project Operations

Responsible Entity

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works)

REPORT PREPARATION

This MMRP was prepared by the County with the assistance of Chambers Group, Inc. The following individuals participated in the report preparation.

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Dale Sakamoto

Chambers Group, Inc.

Andrew Minor, Project Manager

James Smithwick, Director of Environmental Planning

Jeannie Yu, Assistant Environmental Planner